

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tissue closure device, comprising:

an elongate body having a first portion and a second portion, each portion having a distal end, the portions arranged generally adjacent one another so that the first portion distal end is disposed a minimum distance distal from the second portion distal end;

a wound closure member releasably connected to the first portion distal end;

the second elongate portion having a lumen, a lumen distal opening being at the second portion distal end;

wherein the second portion lumen distal opening is spaced from the wound closure member.

2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the elongate portions extend generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the elongate body.

3. The device of Claim 2, wherein the first and second portions are arranged concentrically.

4. The device of Claim 3, wherein the second portion is arranged concentrically around the first portion.

5. The device of Claim 1, wherein the second portion distal end cannot be moved distally relative to the first portion distal end beyond the minimum distance.

6. The device of Claim 1, wherein the first and second portions are rigidly connected to one another.

7. The device of Claim 1, wherein the first portion comprises a first lumen having a first lumen opening through the distal end, and the wound closure member is configured to cover at least a portion of the lumen opening.

8. The device of Claim 7, wherein the first lumen is connectable to a source of vacuum capable of drawing a vacuum through the first lumen.

9. The device of Claim 8, wherein the wound closure member is held onto the first lumen distal opening by the vacuum.

10. The device of Claim 7 additionally comprising a release rod, and the first lumen is adapted to slidably receive the release rod therein.

11. The device of Claim 1 in combination with a flow guide, the flow guide comprising a flow guide body configured to be movably connected to the tissue closure device elongate body, a distal end of the flow guide body adapted to fit partially circumferentially around the elongate body and to define a flow path generally transverse to a longitudinal axis of the elongate body.

12. The device of Claim 11, wherein the flow guide comprises at least two guide tabs, and the flow path is defined between the guide tabs.

13. The device of Claim 11, wherein the flow guide is longitudinally movable relative to the elongate body.

14. The device of Claim 11, wherein the flow guide is rotationally movable relative to the elongate body.

15. The device of Claim 11 additionally comprising a lock adapted to releasably secure the flow guide in a position relative to the elongate body.

16. The device of Claim 1 in combination with an organ stabilizer configured to be movably attached to the elongate body.

17. The device of Claim 16, wherein the organ stabilizer device comprises an elongate stabilizer body including a lumen having a distal opening, the lumen being connectable to a source of vacuum, the distal opening adapted to be engagable with bodily tissue to secure the tissue in place with the vacuum.

18. The device of Claim 16, wherein the organ stabilizer device comprises an elongate stabilizer body having a ridge, and the ridge is configured to engage the tissue closure device elongate body so that the closure device elongate body is spaced from the elongate stabilizer body.

19. The device of Claim 18, wherein the stabilizer body comprises a lumen having a distal opening adapted to be engagable with bodily tissue.

20. The device of Claim 19, wherein the stabilizer body comprises a plurality of lumens.